Franklin during the illness of General McClellan in January, 1862, he found that they joined in recommending substantially the same movement as that which he had suggested to General McClellan in December.[1] "When McClellan recovered, he laid his own plan before the Secretary of "War and the President, with the result that the latter not only entirely refused to adopt it, but issued, on January 31, 1862, an order[a] directing that " all the disposable force of the Army of the Potomac, after providing safely for the defence of Washington, be formed into an expedition for the immediate object of seizing and occupying a point upon the railroad southwestward of what is known as Manassas Junction."

Whether President Lincoln's " orders " were ever intended to serve any other purpose than as starting-points in a discussion of the military situation with General McClellan, we do not know; but it is perfectly plain that they could not have been considered by him as the outcome of a final decision of his own mind. We find him, three days after having issued this " order," writing to McClellan,[3] and telling him that if he would give him satisfactory answers to certain questions, he would gladly yield his plan to that of the General-in-chief. These questions were —whether General McClellan's plan did not involve

a larger expenditure of time and money, and whether it was so likely to result in victory, or in so valuable a victory, and whether in case of defeat, a retreat

[1] Swinton, 81, 83.
[2] **5 W. R., 41-**
[3] /£., 41 : February 3, 1862.